

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for restricting travel of a moving contact in a lighting contactor, the lighting contactor including the moving contact and a contact carrier, wherein the moving contact includes a retaining boss and wherein the contact carrier includes a mounting tab, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow spacer;

providing a biasing member comprising a front end and a rear end;

positioning the biasing member within the spacer such that the spacer extends only around the biasing member, ~~the spacer configured to move along a length of the biasing member when the biasing member is stationary~~; and

installing the biasing member and the spacer in the contact carrier such that the biasing member front end receives and is mounted on the moving contact retaining boss and the biasing member rear end receives and is mounted on the contact carrier mounting tab.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a spacer further comprises the step of:

determining a compressed biasing member length; and

providing the spacer having a length substantial equal to said compressed biasing member length.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the contact carrier defines an access slot, said step of providing a spacer further comprises the step of:

determining a moving contact safe travel distance; and

providing the spacer sized to be received in the access slot, the spacer engaging the moving contact when the moving contact moves the safe travel distance.

4. – 5. (canceled)

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of installing the biasing member further comprises the step of aligning a substantially planar proximate end of the spacer substantially parallel to a back of the moving contact.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 6 wherein said step of aligning the spacer further comprises the step of aligning the spacer to engage the moving contact back upon rearward axial movement of the moving contact relative to a front wall and a rear wall of the contact carrier and a centerline axis of the lighting contactor.

8.-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A method for limiting movement of a moving contact ~~along a longitudinal axis of an access slot in a lighting contactor~~, said method comprising:

providing a lighting contactor including an access slot, the moving contact, and a contact carrier, wherein the access slot includes a longitudinal axis, the moving contact includes a retaining boss, and the contact carrier includes a mounting tab;

providing a spacer with at least one longitudinal opening; and

~~inserting a biasing member through the at least one longitudinal opening of the spacer, such that the spacer is movable along a length of the biasing member when the biasing member is stationary such that a biasing member front end receives and is frictionally engaged with the retaining boss and a biasing member rear end receives and is mounted on the mounting tab.~~

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32 further comprising positioning the spacer and the biasing member within the access slot of the lighting contactor.

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32 further comprising:

calculating a moving contact safe travel distance; and

providing the spacer having a length substantially equal to the moving contact safe travel distance.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 32 wherein providing a spacer with at least one longitudinal opening further comprises providing a tubular spacer with at least one longitudinal opening.